

August 21, 2014

**Statement from Menominee Tribal Chairwoman Laurie Boivin
on the First Anniversary of Federal Approval for the Proposed Kenosha Casino**

“As the Wisconsin summer draws to a close, there is anticipation among the Menominee people with the ongoing efforts to make the Kenosha casino project a reality. The Menominee Hard Rock Hotel & Casino symbolizes our tribe’s desire to achieve self-determination and financial stability while building better lives for our members and residents from Kenosha to Keshena.

“August 23, 2014 is the one-year anniversary of the Federal Government’s approval of the casino project after the tribe was subjected to a long nine-year wait. The subsequent announcement last September of the Menominee partnership with Hard Rock International was truly a game changer towards making our dream of a new entertainment complex a reality.

“Starting last year, we began serious discussions with Governor Scott Walker and Secretary Mike Huebsch to provide information, insights and technical analysis to help the Governor make an informed decision on behalf of the State of Wisconsin.

“In February 2014, we joined Governor Walker to ask the Bureau of Indian Affairs for a one-time 180-day extension on the deadline for the State to provide concurrence on the federal approval. We did so because the approval process includes resolving complicated issues on the compacts with other tribes who oppose our plan for Kenosha. At this point, we are happy with the pace of progress and acknowledge the efforts of Secretary Huebsch and his team.

“As the Menominee people continue their patient wait for a final decision, our needs continue to grow. As a tribe we struggle to provide even basic services to all our people. It is hoped that our patience and cooperation will be rewarded because the need is greater than ever. Our efforts, and those of our business partner, Hard Rock International, are focused on providing the State’s experts the information they need to provide the Governor the information necessary to approve the project before time runs out.

“We are more confident than ever that the final analysis will show that the \$800 million facility at the shuttered Dairyland Greyhound Track will generate not only thousands of new jobs in Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee counties, but that hundreds of new jobs will also be added in Menominee County and Northeast Wisconsin.

“On the first anniversary of the Federal approval for our project, consider this: The positive economic impact of a world-class facility in Kenosha, and approximately 9,000 on-going direct and indirect jobs, as well as new construction jobs in both parts of the state, will give thousands of families new hope and much needed new revenue for local communities, the State of Wisconsin and the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.”

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